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inated, that seems to flicker, and the larger background appears unchanged. In a longer article in the same *Archiv*, 1886, Hering savagely criticises Exner's phenomena as not new and not illusions of judgment but of sensation, and intimates that Exner has not taken the trouble to study his views, but follows Helmholtz blindly. Exner replies that he himself discovered independently and in another way the central element of Hering's theory of contrast, the influence of one part of the retina by another. While in general a believer in Hering's contrast theory, he finds it inadequate to the explanation of many details.

Handbuch der physiologischen Optik. H. VON HELMHOLTZ. 1886.

The first three *Lieferungen* of an entirely revised edition of this great classical work are received. The first edition, which has long been out of print, was a work of amazing experimental and literary industry and acumen. In the wellnigh a quarter of a century which has elapsed since its appearance, so much work has been done in this field that a thorough revision of it to the end will involve much labor and be of correspondingly great value. We trust nothing will interfere with its completion.

The Dreams of the Blind. By JOSEPH JASTROW, Ph. D. New Princeton Review, January, 1888.

As long ago as 1838 Dr. G. Heermann published an exceedingly valuable study on this subject, concluding from a broad induction that those who lost sight before the age of from five to seven years do not in adult life continue to dream in visual terms as those do who lose sight after this critical period. He also concluded that deafness carried mutism with it before but not after this same period, which was also critical for dream memory of lost limbs. Dr. Jastrow here takes up the general subject on the basis of an examination of nearly 200 blind persons, and while in general confirming Heermann's results, modifies them in essential details and adds much new material in an article of value and interest and with a wide range of suggestive allusion and literary reference. From 100 answers to the question "What is your earliest remembrance of yourself?" Dr. Jastrow found the average age to go back to 5.2 years. At about this age he says there is a declaration of independence of the sense centres from their food supply of sensations. Thus it can no longer be said that when a sense organ is totally destroyed the ideas received by that organ perish too. The writer believes the blind on the whole to dream less than the seeing, but that females dream more than males. Dreams decline from childhood to age, and those of the blind are most likely to be in terms of hearing.

The Writings of Laura Bridgman. By E. C. SANFORD, Fellow of the Johns Hopkins University. Two articles reprinted from the Overland Monthly, 1887.

The valuable reports of Dr. Howe during the most interesting stages of the education of this famous blind deaf-mute are out of print, and Mrs. Lamson did not utilize for her biography the very voluminous journals kept by Laura herself during this period, which Mr. Sanford here has for the first time read through and subjects to a careful analysis which abounds in valuable material too detailed

to be described here. The impressions of the house, furniture, her family, the domestic animals, the family grindstone, the occupations of those about her, her own amusements and childish escapades, impressions of death, etc., all received through the sense of touch alone, and remembered most of them for many years till she learned to write and recorded them, show how independent of language of any sort all the fundamental psychic processes may be. So too the record of the daily events of her life at the Institute, which at certain periods is very full, her so-called poems, her religious impressions, etc., all bear at every point the marks of her defects both in the nature of her impressions and in the structure of her sentences and often her words, but also marvellous success in overcoming these disadvantages. Into Mr. Sanford's analysis of her graphic, syntactical, stylistic and perceptive errors we cannot enter here.

Ueber die optische Inversion ebener Linearzeichnungen bei einäugiger Betrachtung. Von Dr. J. LOEB. Pflüger's Archiv, 1887, p. 274.

An optical figure composed of seven straight lines may look like the contour of an open book and inclined at about the angle at which it would be held in reading, or by optical inversion its middle angle or edge may appear convex to the observer. Loeb tested children of from seven to fourteen years of age, who were told to hold a book as the figure looked to them, and found increasing the distance of the figure excited the concave, diminishing it, the convex, sensation. Absolute distance had nothing to do with the sensation. Even the movement of a pencil, which was not fixated but held between the eye and the drawing, from or to the former caused concave or convex sensations respectively. Slight movements of convergence are commonly associated with convex, and of divergence with concave sensations. Passive movement of the bulbus sometimes caused convergence. Monocular inversion Loeb thinks due to the innervation which changes the fixation point along the line of vision. The same rules hold of all figures susceptible of inversion.

Ueber einseitigen und doppelseitigen Lidschluss. Von O. LANGENDORFF. Arch. f. Anat. u. Physiol., 1887, p. 144.

In man reflex, as distinct from voluntary, winking is always on both sides, but with the rabbit only the lid of the stimulated side winks. The visual field is less identified with the danger field in the rabbit, the eyes of which are on different sides of the head and have different fields, and which needs a strong stimulus to cause bilateral winking. Exactly the same law in man and in rabbits holds of the perfect reflex. Knoll could observe no sympathy of the unstimulated pupil. But it is rare that the voluntary shutting of one eye in man is so well learned that no tremor of the other lid can be observed, and the feeling is that this is due to antagonistic effect rather than to genuine inhibition.

Die Wahrnehmung der Schallrichtung mittelst der Bogengänge. Von W. PREYER. Arch. f. Physiol., 1887, Heft 11 and 12.

To determine how accurately the direction of a short sharp sound could be located with closed eyes and motionless head it was first